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(d) how many members belonging to Devanga or Chetti community were duly elected during the last period to the Salem District Board ;

(e) how many members belonging to the said Devanga or Chetti community were already appointed by Government to the Salem District Board ; and

(f) if the Government have no information with reference to clauses (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e), whether they will be pleased to call for the information ?

A.—(a), (d) & (e) A list <sup>a</sup> of members of the Salem District Board is laid on the table.

(b) The term of M.R.Ry. V. Varadayya Avargal will expire on 15th July 1927.

(c) The question does not arise.

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ How is it that so many gentlemen belonging to the Devanga community have been nominated in such a large number so as to attract the attention of the vigilant member my hon. Friend Mr. Veerian ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ These nominations are made on the recommendation of the presidents of district boards and collectors in the case of district boards and municipalities respectively.”

*Constitution of Singanallur union board.*

\* 219 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) how many Naickers (non-Brahman touchable community) were duly elected recently to the Singanallur union board, Coimbatore taluk ;

(b) how many Brahmans were duly elected recently to the same board ;

(c) the communities or classes that were duly represented by nomination to this board by the President, Coimbatore taluk board ; and

(d) if the Government have no information with reference to clauses (a) to (c), whether they will be pleased to call for the information ?

A.—A list <sup>b</sup> of members of the Singanallur union board is laid on the table.

*Alleged obstruction to depressed classes in the Agraharam streets in Watrap.*

\* 220 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether, with reference to question No. 1243 answered on 18th November 1924, the obstruction caused by the residents of Watrap Union Board Agraharam streets to the depressed classes in not allowing them to pass through the Agraharam streets in the Watrap village has been completely put an end to ; and

(b) whether the announcement of the Government Order passed on the 25th August 1924 to the effect that all classes of people have free access to public roads, wells, tanks, etc., has been made by beat of tom-tom throughout the union board ?

<sup>a</sup> Printed as Appendix V on pages 398–399 infra. <sup>b</sup> Printed as Appendix VI on page 400 infra.

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- A.—(a) The Government have no information of obstruction. All persons have a right to use public streets and cannot be legally prevented from exercising it.
- (b) The Government have instructed the President, Union Board, to publish the G.O. No. 2660, L. & M., of 25th September 1924, to which the hon. Member presumably refers.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“The answer given in clause (a) states that ‘all persons have a right to use public streets and cannot be legally prevented from exercising it’, while G.O. No. 2660, dated 25th September 1924, states clearly ‘that unless the public streets inhabited by orthodox people are treated as business centres, the so-called depressed classes cannot have free access to those streets’. May I know why there is this inconsistency on the part of the Government?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“I do not see any inconsistency on the part of the Government at all.”

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“I only wanted to know as to why there should be such an additional clause while the answer given to this question states clearly ‘all persons have a right to use public streets and cannot be legally prevented from exercising it’.”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“They are entitled to enter these streets and lanes whenever they have business and not simply for creating trouble.”

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“May I know whether the Government while they want to respect the feelings of the other caste people are not equally interested in respecting the feelings of the so-called depressed classes who have been subjected to such suffering for centuries?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“The Government are willing to respect the feelings of all.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“Government recognize the right to the use of all public streets by the depressed classes. My hon. Friend's question refers also to the use of public wells. Do the Government recognize a similar right to the use of all public wells also?”

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—“Is it not the Government's duty to assist those people so that they may enjoy these privileges?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“Wherever assistance is required and wherever assistance can be given, the Government are prepared and are quite willing to give such assistance.”

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—“Whether under the present state of law do the Government consider that a private street maintained and repaired by the municipalities is a public road?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“The hon. Member is a lawyer and he wants a legal interpretation on a particular matter. I am not prepared to do that.”